LIBRARY

HEALTH
12 NOV 1948

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

DROITWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report upon the public health of the Borough for the year 1945.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area (in acres)	1735 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1945	5675
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	1476
Rateable Value	£38,158.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£149 : 10 : 9d.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :-

Live Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	68	26	42
Illegitimate	9	4	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population (estimated) = 13.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales = 16.1

Still Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 38.96

Deaths.	Total	Male	Female
	62	32	30

Death Rate per 1,000 estimate population = 10.9
Death Rate England and Wales same period = 11.4

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year	26
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	46

The Infantile Mortality-Rate for the Borough of Droitwich for the year 1944, as recorded in my last report was 69.

I think it is necessary to realise that rates for small populations and short periods are apt to be misleading.

Continued -

Continued -

Deaths occurring from special causes during the year :-

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	8.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2
Cancer	4	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	7
Heart Disease	10	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	1	1
Digestive Disease	-	1
Nephritis	3	-
Congenital Diseases	1	-
Road Accidents	-	1
Other violent causes	-	1
Other causes	2	7

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services.

There are provided at the County Council's laboratory in Worcester.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Droitwich and District Ambulance continues to meet the needs of the district, as regards sick and accident cases.

Infectious cases are removed to hospital by special ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

Nursing in the Home.

This is provided by the local district Nursing Association. Nurse Hodges has retired after many years of service in the district and Nurse Hall began her duties in Droitwich on 9th January, 1945.

During the year, one of the Council's houses in Albert Street was made available for use by the District Nurse.

The District Nurse attends general, medical and surgical cases, in addition to maternity cases, and the work has increased so much recently that two nurses are now working in the district.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Centre is held in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich, every Tuesday afternoon. Children can be immunised against diphtheria at this Centre.

During the year the following attendances were made at the Centre :-

Number of times Clinic opened	47.
Attendances of children under 1 year of age	968.
Attendances of children 1 to 5 years of age	425.
Number of mothers who attended without children	57.
School children who attended for treatment of minor ailments	51.

Continued -

Continued -

The County Council's Antenatal Clinic is held on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month at the Baptist Church Hall.

During the year there were 219 attendances at this clinic.

Health visiting in the district is done by one of the County Council's Health Visitors.

Hospitals.

Patients in the district attend Worcester Royal Infirmary and the Birmingham Hospitals.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is provided by the County Council and those requiring sanatorium treatment are admitted to Hill Top Hospital and Knightwick Sanatorium.

Maternity cases can be admitted to the County Council's hospitals, the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport and the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge.

Treatment for cases of Venereal Disease is provided free of charge by the County Council at the following hospitals :-

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
Kidderminster & District General Hospital, Kidderminster.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Guest Hospital, Dudley.
Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

SECTION C.

SANITARY C IRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (a) Water Supply.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

Samples are taken quarterly and are sent to the County Laboratory for analysis. These samples gave satisfactory results throughout the year.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes in these services were made during the year.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The Birmingham - Worcester Canal was the subject of an enquiry held by the Ministry of Health during the year. The canal bed is in a dirty condition and requires cleansing and an application for sanction to carry out this work was made to the Ministry of Health. After an inspection of that part of the canal which passes through the Borough - by a deputation from the Ministry of Health - it was decided by the Ministry that although the state of the canal was not good, the work was not of a sufficiently urgent nature for them to allow the Council to proceed with it at present.

3. Public Cleansing.

The weekly c ollection and disposal of refuse by controlled tipping has been carried on as usual during the year. There was some difficulty in finding labour for this work.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This was carried on as usual, and is reported on below by the Sanitary Inspector.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year, the Council considered plans for the first post-war year's housing programme for the Borough.

Preparation of the Stalls Farm Site for the erection of approximately 240 new houses was well in hand by the end of the year, and plans were approved by the Ministry of Health for the building of the first 50 houses.

At the end of 1945, there was a waiting list of approximately 275 applicants for Council houses.

It is hoped that as the building of the new houses is proceeded with it will be possible to deal with insanitary houses and cases of overcrowding under the Housing Acts.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	263
	Number of Inspections made for above purpose	280
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 & 1932	19
	Number of Inspections made for above purpose	19
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None.
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	198

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	198

Continued -

Continued -

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied) — Nil.

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices . . . .

(a) By owners — Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners — Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied — None.

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) By the owners — None.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners — None.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of whic h Demolition Orders were made — None.

2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders — None.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made — None.

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit — None.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year
2. Number of families dwelling therein
3. Number of persons dwelling therein

) Owing to the influx of persons into the town due to the war no figures are available as to the present amount of overcrowding in the Borough.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year — None.

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year — 10.

2. Number of persons concerned in such — 43½

Continued -

Overcrowding Continued -

(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abtement of overcrowding	No records have yet been obtained concerning many premises now over-crowded due to wartime conditions.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

During the year 299 lbs. of meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption

Fish	51	lbs.
Meat	37½	"
Cheese	11½	"
Butter	106	"
Fruit	93	"

(c) Adulteration of Foods.

I am indebted to Mr. E.A. Spencer of the Weights and Measures Department, Worcestershire County Council, for the information that 21 samples of milk were taken and examined under the Food & Drugs Act 1938, and found to be satisfactory.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 89 children completed their course of injections.

(a)	Pre-school children	74
(b)	School children	15
		89

At the end of the year the percentage number of children estimated to be immunised in the age group 0 - 15 years was 88.6%.

Every assistance was again received from the general practitioners, school teachers, health visitor and district nurses in connection with this campaign.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Figures showing the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year are given in the attached table.

Continued -

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES CONTINUED -

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the year

Disease	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	5	3	Nil.
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil.
Measles	44	44	Nil.
Whooping Cough	1	Nil.	Nil.
Erysipelas	1	Nil.	Nil.

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups :-

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.
Under 1 year.	-	3	-	-	-
1 -	-	4	-	-	-
2 -	2	4	-	-	-
3 -	-	4	-	-	-
4 -	-	3	-	-	1
5 -	2	19	-	-	-
10 -	1	2	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	1	-	-
20 -	-	2	-	-	-
35 -	-	1	1	-	-
45 -	-	1	-	1	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-
	5	44	2	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there were five deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, including two transferrable deaths.

Particulars of new cases are as follows :-

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
25 -	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
35 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	1	1	1	2	-	-

Figures at the beginning of year and end of year on Register.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of December 1944 and 1945 were as follows :-

	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1944	13	13	1	3
1945	14	14	2	4

No action was taken in 1945 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. G.L. Robinson and his staff for the help they have given in the compilation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ended
31st December, 1945.

Infectious Diseases etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	9.
Houses Disinfected after notifiable disease	9.
Other houses disinfected	11.

Housing

Houses erected	(a) By Local Authority	Nil.
	(b) By private enterprise or subsidy	Nil.

1.	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	280.
	(b) Number (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925	19.
	(c) Number of houses found unfit for habitation	Nil.
	(d) Number of houses (excluding c.) not in all respects fit for habitation	198.
2.	Number of defective houses rendered fit after informal action	198.

3. Housing Act 1936, Sections 9, 10 and 16.

(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs of defects remedied	Nil.
(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by :-	
(a) The owner	Nil.
(b) The Local Authority in default of owner	Nil.

4. Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repair of defects remedied	Nil.
(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by :-	
(a) The owner	Nil.
(b) The Local Authority in default of owner	Nil.

5. Housing Act 1936, Sections 11 and 13.

(a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

6. Housing Act 1936, Section 12.

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(b) Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

7. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Number of families dwelling therein Number of persons dwelling therein	Owing to the influx of persons into the town due to the war, no figures are available as to the present amount of overcrowding in the Borough.

Continued -

7. Overcrowding Continued -

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year — Nil.
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year — 10.
Number of persons concerned in such cases — 43½.

Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with — None.
Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of the District ?
If so, please give name of parish or part — None.

Slaughter Houses.

Public Slaughter houses — None.
Number registered (private) — None.
Number licensed (private) — 5.
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found — None.
Number of inspections - Premises not in use owing to Food Control.

Milk.

Number of registered dairy farms in the area — 8.
Total number of retailers in the district — 10.
Number of Licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order

	Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers	Nil.	1.	Nil.
Retailers	2.	5.	1.
Producers	Nil.	2.	Nil.

Approximate number of milking cows in the district — 95.

Canal Boats.

There are no Canal Boats registered.

Lodging Houses.

Number on Register — None.
Number of Inspections — None.
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found — None.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Number on Register — None.
Number of Inspections — None.
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found — None.

Food.

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption — Nil.
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption :-

3½ stone	Herrings.	3 lbs.	Canned Lobster.
6 lbs.	Chopped Ham.	2 lbs.	" Beef.
29½ lbs.	Pressed Beef.	106 lbs.	Butter.
11½ lbs.	Cheese.	93 lbs.	Canned Fruit.

Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption - The whole.

Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis: Oxen. — None.
Pigs. — None.

Food & Drugs Act.

Samples taken for analysis	None.
Number of samples certified genuine	None.
Number of samples certified a dulterated	None.

Other Matters.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act - Cases dealt with	None.
Verminous persons - Casos dealt with	None.
Verminous Houses - Cases dealt with	10.
Stagnant water - Cases dealt with	None.
Nuisances arising from domestic animals	None.

Legal Proceedings.

Convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions	None.
Convictions obtained with regard to unsound food	None.

Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Diseases or other abnormal illness during the year.

Sanitary Improvements.

None.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

None.

Fever.

None.

General Remarks.

At the end of 1945 the preparation of the Stalls Farm Housing Site was nearing completion and tenders had been obtained for the erection of 50 houses.

All the Council Houses requisitioned by the War Dept. had been released.

(Signed) GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Sanitary Inspector.